DRASTERIUS BIMACULATUS (ROSSI, 1790) (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA, ELATERIDAE): PROPOSED CONSERVATION BY SUPPRESSION OF *ELATER BIMACULATUS* FOURCROY, 1785 Z.N.(S.) 2345.

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In 1785 A. F. de Fourcroy (*Entomologia parisiensis* (1). p. 38) described from the surroundings of Paris a species called *Elater bimaculatus*. Since the description the name *bimaculatus* of Fourcroy has not been used as a valid name. *Elater bimaculatus* Fourcroy, 1785 is a junior synonym of *Elater bipustulatus* Linnaeus, 1767 (*Syst. Nat.* ed. 12, p. 652), now *Calambus bipustulatus*, a very well known European species.

2. In 1790 P. Rossi (*Fauna etrusca*, vol. 1, p. 182) described from Italy another species called *Elater bimaculatus*, now *Drasterius bimaculatus* (Rossi). *Drasterius bimaculatus* (Rossi) is a common Palaearctic species (from North Africa through South Europe to the Caucasus). The name *bimaculatus* (Rossi) has been in continuous use till now. The oldest available synonym is *Elater binotatus* Rossi, 1792 (*Mant. Ins.* vol. 1, p. 59) — the name now used for a variety of the species *Drasterius bimaculatus* var. *binotatus* (Rossi) (see Leseigneur, 1972, p. 62). *Elater bimaculatus* Rossi, 1790, is the type species of the genus *Drasterius* Eschholz [= Eschscholtz], 1829 (in Thon, Ent, Arch, II, 1, p. 33) by subsequent designation by Westwood, 1840, *Introd. mod. class. ins.*, vol. 2, Generic Synopsis, p. 26.

3. As the application of the law of homonymy would disrupt stability and cause confusion and as on the other hand *Elater bimaculatus* Fourcroy, 1785 is an unused senior synonym, I ask the Commission to take the following actions:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *bimaculatus* Fourcroy, 1785, as published in the combination *Elater bimaculatus*, and all uses prior to the publication of *Elater bimaculatus* Rossi, 1790 for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;

(2) to place the specific name *bimaculatus* Rossi, 1790, as published in the binomen *Elater bimaculatus*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;

(3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the specific name *bimaculatus* Fourcroy, 1785, as published in the binomen *Elater bimaculatus*, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above.

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